

Claims

What is claimed is:

- 5 1. A diminishing returns bingo game resulting in a
 controllable disadvantage by an operator of the bingo
 game to a plurality of players, comprising in
 combination: a random number generator for randomly
 generating a plurality of bingo cards to permit each
10 one of the plurality of players to pre-select a
 plurality of player bingo cards and to permit each one
 of the plurality of players to pre-select a plurality
 of player patterns for each one of said plurality of
 pre-selected player bingo cards; and said random
15 number generator for randomly generating every bingo
 number of the bingo game to match to said plurality of
 pre-selected player patterns so that the plurality of
 players realize a plurality of diminishing awards as
 the quantity of randomly generated bingo numbers drawn
20 by the random number generator increases.
2. The diminishing returns bingo game resulting in a
 controllable disadvantage by an operator of the bingo
 game to a plurality of players according to Claim 1
25 wherein said controllable disadvantage comprises a
 plurality of payout tables predetermined by the
 operator of the bingo game so that the plurality of
 awards to the plurality of players diminishes as the
 quantity of randomly generated bingo numbers increases
30 during the bingo game.

3. The diminishing returns bingo game resulting in a controllable disadvantage by an operator of the bingo game to a plurality of players according to Claim 2 wherein the operator of the bingo game selectively
5 assigns a different payout table for each one of the plurality of payout tables.
4. A diminishing returns bingo game, comprising in combination: means for randomly generating a plurality
10 of bingo cards to permit each one of a plurality of players to pre-select a plurality of player bingo cards and to permit each one of the plurality of players to pre-select a plurality of player patterns for each one of said plurality of pre-selected player
15 bingo cards; and means for randomly generating every bingo number of the bingo game to match to said plurality of pre-selected player patterns so that the plurality of players realize a plurality of diminishing awards as the quantity of randomly
20 generated bingo numbers increases resulting in a controllable disadvantage predetermined by an operator of the bingo game.
5. The diminishing returns bingo game according to Claim
25 4 wherein said means for randomly generating a plurality of bingo cards and said means for randomly generating every bingo number of the bingo game comprises a random number generator of a gaming machine.
- 30 6. The diminishing returns bingo game according to Claim 5 wherein said controllable disadvantage comprises a

plurality of payout tables predetermined by the operator of the bingo game so that the plurality of awards to the plurality of players diminishes as the quantity of randomly generated bingo numbers drawn by the random number generator increases during the bingo game.

7. The diminishing returns bingo game according to Claim 6 wherein the operator of the bingo game selectively assigns a different payout table for each one of the plurality of payout tables.

8. The diminishing returns bingo game according to Claim 4 wherein prior to play of the bingo game each one of the plurality of players makes a first plurality of wagers to obtain a plurality of randomly generated bingo cards, each one of a first plurality of randomly generated bingo cards comprising said plurality of pre-selected player bingo cards of the bingo game and each one of the plurality of players selectively electing an alternative plurality of pre-selected player bingo cards from an alternative plurality of randomly generated bingo cards if the player is dissatisfied with any of said first plurality of randomly generated bingo cards.

9. The diminishing returns bingo game according to Claim 8 wherein said first plurality of wagers permit the player to select a first player pattern for each one of said plurality of pre-selected player bingo cards of the bingo game and an alternative first player pattern for each one of said alternative plurality of

player pre-selected bingo cards if the player is dissatisfied with any of said first plurality of randomly generated bingo cards.

5 10. The diminishing returns bingo game according to Claim
9 wherein prior to play of the bingo game and after
making said first plurality of wagers, each one of the
plurality of players makes a plurality of additional
wagers for selecting a plurality of additional player
10 patterns of each one of said player pre-selected bingo
cards, each one of said additional wagers independent
of any other plurality of wagers made for said
plurality of pre-selected player patterns permitting
the plurality of players to achieve more than one
15 award in the bingo game.

11. The diminishing returns bingo game according to Claim
4 wherein each one of said plurality of randomly
generated bingo cards and each one of said plurality
20 of pre-selected player bingo cards comprises a
plurality of numbers and an array having a plurality
of spaces, each one of the plurality of spaces
selectively filled with each one of the plurality of
numbers, the operator of the bingo game selecting a
25 predetermined plurality of winning patterns for said
plurality of randomly generated bingo cards and every
one of the randomly generated bingo numbers compared
to each one of the plurality of numbers of said
plurality of pre-selected player bingo cards so that
30 said plurality of predetermined winning patterns of
said plurality of randomly generated bingo cards

eventually match to said plurality of pre-selected player patterns.

5 12. The diminishing returns bingo game according to Claim 11 wherein the plurality of awards to the plurality of players of the bingo game is determined by the quantity of randomly generated bingo numbers required to match each one of said plurality of pre-selected player patterns to said plurality of predetermined winning patterns for said plurality of randomly generated bingo cards.

15 13. The diminishing returns bingo game according to Claim 11 wherein random bingo numbers of the bingo game continue to be generated until said plurality of pre-selected player patterns correspond to the plurality of numbers selected by said random number generator for each one of the plurality of pre-selected player bingo cards so that each one of the plurality of
20 players eventually achieves a match to said plurality of predetermined winning patterns of said plurality of randomly generated bingo cards achieving a diminishing award for each one of said plurality of pre-selected player patterns as the quantity of randomly generated
25 bingo numbers drawn by the random number generator increases during the bingo game.

30 14. The diminishing returns bingo game according to Claim 6 wherein the quantity of randomly generated bingo numbers drawn by the random number generator needed to result in an award to the plurality of players is increased in the plurality of pay out tables

predetermined by the operator of the bingo game so that the plurality of players achieve a higher hit frequency while maintaining the controllable disadvantage predetermined by the operator of the bingo game.

15. The diminishing returns bingo game according to Claim 4 wherein the plurality of players achieve a higher hit frequency for the plurality of awards when the plurality of players increase the quantity of said plurality of pre-selected player patterns for the plurality of player pre-selected bingo cards of the bingo game.

16. The diminishing returns bingo game according to Claim 4 wherein the rate of randomly generating bingo numbers decreases as the quantity of randomly generated bingo numbers increases so as to cause greater suspense to the plurality of players during the play of the bingo game.

17. The diminishing returns bingo game according to Claim 4 wherein the rate of randomly generating bingo numbers is manually controlled by the plurality of players during the play of the bingo game.

18. A method for offering a diminished returns bingo game comprising the steps of:
randomly generating a plurality of bingo cards to permit each one of a plurality of players to pre-select a plurality of player bingo cards and to permit each one of the players to pre-select a plurality of

player patterns for each one of said plurality of pre-selected player bingo cards; and
randomly generating every bingo number of the bingo game to match to said plurality of pre-selected player patterns resulting in a controllable disadvantage predetermined by the operator of the bingo game so that the plurality of players realize a plurality of diminishing awards as the quantity of randomly generated bingo numbers increases.

19. The method for offering a diminished returns bingo game according to Claim 18 further comprising the step of: providing a random number generator of a gaming machine for randomly generating a plurality of bingo cards and for randomly generating every bingo number of the bingo game.

20. The method for offering a diminished returns bingo game according to Claim 18 further comprising the steps of:
providing a controllable disadvantage comprising a plurality of payout tables predetermined by the operator of the bingo game so that the award to the plurality of players diminishes as the quantity of randomly generated bingo numbers increases during the bingo game; and
the operator of the bingo game selectively assigning a different payout table for each one of the plurality of payout tables.

21. The method for offering a diminished returns bingo game according to Claim 18 further comprising the steps of:

prior to playing the bingo game each one of the plurality of players making a first plurality of wagers to obtain a plurality of randomly generated bingo cards, each one of a first plurality of randomly generated bingo cards comprising said plurality of pre-selected player bingo cards of the bingo game; each one of the plurality of players selectively electing an alternative plurality of pre-selected player bingo cards from an alternative plurality of randomly generated bingo cards if the player is dissatisfied with any of said first plurality of randomly generated bingo cards; and said first plurality of wagers permitting the player to select a first player pattern for each one of said plurality of pre-selected player bingo cards of the bingo game and an alternative first player pattern for each one of said alternative plurality of player pre-selected bingo cards if the player is dissatisfied with any of said first plurality of randomly generated bingo cards.

22. The method for offering a diminished returns bingo game according to Claim 21 further comprising the step of: prior to play of the bingo game and after making said first plurality of wagers each one of the plurality of players making a plurality of additional wagers for selecting a plurality of additional player patterns of each one of said player pre-selected bingo cards, each one of said additional wagers independent

of any other plurality of wagers made for said plurality of pre-selected player patterns permitting the plurality of players to achieve more than one award in the bingo game.

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23. The method for offering a diminished returns bingo game according to Claim 18 further comprising the steps of:

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providing each one of said plurality of randomly generated bingo cards and each one of said plurality of pre-selected player bingo cards comprises a plurality of numbers and an array having a plurality of spaces, each one of the plurality of spaces selectively filled with each one of the plurality of numbers;

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the operator of the bingo game selecting a predetermined plurality of winning patterns for said plurality of randomly generated bingo cards;

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comparing every one of the randomly generated bingo numbers to each one of the plurality of numbers of said plurality of pre-selected player bingo cards so that said plurality of predetermined winning patterns of said plurality of randomly generated bingo cards eventually match to said plurality of pre-selected

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player patterns;

providing the plurality of awards to the plurality of players of the bingo game is determined by the quantity of randomly generated bingo numbers required to match each one of said plurality of pre-selected player patterns to said plurality of predetermined

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winning patterns for said plurality of randomly generated bingo cards; and

generating random bingo numbers of the bingo game until said plurality of pre-selected player patterns correspond to the plurality of numbers selected by said random number generator for each one of the plurality of pre-selected player bingo cards so that each one of the plurality of players eventually achieves a match to said plurality of predetermined winning patterns of said plurality of randomly generated bingo cards achieving a diminishing award for each one of said plurality of pre-selected player patterns as the quantity of randomly generated bingo numbers drawn by the random number generator increases during the bingo game.

24. The method for offering a diminished returns bingo game according to Claim 20 further comprising the step of: providing the quantity of randomly generated bingo numbers drawn by the random number generator needed to result in an award to the plurality of players is increased in the plurality of pay out tables predetermined by the operator of the bingo game so that the plurality of players achieve a higher hit frequency while maintaining the controllable disadvantage predetermined by the operator of the bingo game.

25. The method for offering a diminished returns bingo game according to Claim 18 further comprising the steps of:
providing the plurality of players achieve a higher hit frequency for the plurality of awards when the plurality of players increase the quantity of said

plurality of pre-selected player patterns for the
plurality of player pre-selected bingo cards of the
bingo game; and
decreasing the rate of randomly generating bingo
5 numbers as the quantity of randomly generated bingo
numbers increases so as to cause greater suspense to
the plurality of players during the play of the bingo
game.

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